



## LESSONS AND CAROLS 2

*A children's time, reflection on the Scriptures, and other elements of a worship service can be added at the appropriate place in this service, as needed.*

### WELCOME

#### HYMN #159

*O come, all ye faithful*

### OPENING PRAYERS

#### Adoration 1

First and Last,  
Creator of the world,  
Lover of the world,  
Life of the world,  
Life within us and around us,  
Creator, Christ, and Spirit; beside you there is no greater.  
We come to sing praises with the angels.  
We come to bow with the shepherds.  
We come to kneel in wonder with the wise men.  
We come to adore you with Joseph.  
We come to ponder your mystery with Mary.  
We come to you this night, because you first came to us.  
We come to love you because you first loved us.  
We come to serve you because you first served us.  
Receive our honour and praise and come to us afresh this day/night.  
In the name of the Christ-child we pray. Amen

#### Adoration 2

Holy and loving God,  
you stir in the night and bring about joy in the morning,  
you stir in our hearts and bring joy to our lives,  
you stir in our minds and bring wisdom.  
You stir in the world and put on flesh  
and came as the Christ-child, born a baby in a cattle stall,  
so that we might have true, full and everlasting life.

And we stir this morning and desire to praise you.  
We come like the shepherds to adore you  
and we join our voices with the angels and archangels  
in praising you  
for you became flesh and lived among us.  
You are the first and the last,  
the brightest and best,  
the most true,  
the most pure,  
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

### **Adoration 3**

Gracious and loving God, giver of the greatest gift of all, we thank and praise you for this holy and wondrous day/night. We praise you for the beauty of your world and the wisdom of your word and way. We praise you for expectant children and hopeful parents. We thank you for circles of friends and families gathered in fellowship, gathered in love and peace, and gathered in worship. Most of all, we praise you for the gift of your son we receive and celebrate this night.

### **Confession 1**

Generous God, you give us the greatest gift of all, yourself, but too often we find it difficult to receive because we are caught up with our own gifts, given and received. Holy God, you offer us new life in the Christ-child, but often we trivialize and make sentimental that birth and that new life. Your light comes into the world, but we are so easily distracted by things that are dazzling but of little lasting worth. You come as human, but we cannot see you in the human lives around us. Create in us new hearts and minds and set us free to see your transforming love.

### **Confession 2**

Lord God, we confess that we are not ready for Christmas. We may be ready with the gifts and the meals, but our hearts and minds are still a million miles away. We have been distracted, we have been careless and we have come full tilt into the season, forgetting whose birthday it truly is. Forgive us, O Lord; forgive us. Still our hearts and our minds and prepare us for this time. May this time of worship be our Christmas preparation and may it be a precious gift to you.

### **Assurance of Pardon 1**

The Prince of Peace comes to redeem all things. Know that you are forgiven and have the courage and grace to forgive one another and be at peace. Amen

### **Assurance of Pardon 2**

Hear and trust the good news of Christ; anyone who is in Christ is a new creation; the old life is gone and the new life has come. Trust that you are forgiven and forgive one another and be at peace.

Amen

### **LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES**

*If the congregation uses the PWS&D liturgies they may be used here.*

*If not, the following or some other resource might be used.*

Leader: First we light the candle of HOPE

**People: Because Jesus is our hope.**

Leader: Second we light the candle of PEACE

**People: Because Jesus is our peace.**

Leader: Third we light the candle of JOY

**People: Because Jesus brings joy.**

Leader: Fourth we light the candle of LOVE

**People: Because Jesus is love.**

Leader: Finally we light the center candle.

This is the Christ candle.

**People: Jesus is born.**

**Jesus has come.**

**Jesus is our salvation.**

**READING 1: And you shall call him Jesus**

**Luke 1:26-31**

**HYMN #122 (v. 1, 6, 7)  
or #110**

**Oh come, oh come, Emmanuel  
Come, thou long-expected Jesus**

**READING 2: And she laid him in a manger**

**Luke 2:1-7**

**HYMN #161**

**What child is this**

**CHILDREN'S TIME or  
CHRISTMAS REFLECTION**

**HYMN #149**

**Away in a manger**

**READING 3: I bring you good tidings of great joy** **Luke 2:8-12**

**HYMN #138**

**While shepherds watched**

**READING 4: Glory to God in the highest**

**Luke 2:13-14**

**HYMN #139**

**Hark! The herald angels sing**

**READING 5: They rejoiced with exceeding great joy** **Matt. 2:1-2, 9-11**

**OFFERING**

**special music may be sung or offered here**

**READING 7: The Word made flesh**

**John 1:1-14 (various)**

**HYMN #154**

**Silent night**

**READING 8: The prince of peace**

**Isaiah 9:6**

**PRAYER**

**Prayer 1**

O Spirit of Hope,

When the world is confusing and bleak you pierce the darkness with light, with hope, and with renewed vision. We give you thanks for lessons learned, for changes of heart, for new discoveries made and hope restored. As nature prepares for the rest of winter we pray this day for those who are ill and dying, and for those who are bereaved and feel the burden of loss.

O God, give us hope in our time.

O God of Peace,

Within our relationships, communities, our world and ourselves, there is often conflict and antagonism. We pray for all places where violence and cruelty appear to win the day and countries where war cuts people away.

O God, give us peace in our time.

O Creator of Joy

We give you thanks for moments of joy and celebration in our lives, for pleasure given and received, for quiet evenings spent in reflection and for happy gatherings. In these days of cold and darkness we remember those who feel left out, who feel bitter while others rejoice, who are difficult to love, and those who walk in dark valleys: be their light and be their warmth and melt our hearts so that we might love more deeply all people in difficulty.

O God, give us joy in our time.

O Love Come Down,

You call us to live in communion with you and one another and you have formed us into families and circles of friendship. We remember before you our families, whether we be close or estranged, our friends whether they be close or far away, and we ask your blessing on our partners, children, parents and our elders. Let us not keep our gratitude and concern for them bottled up but let us express our love and concern in words and actions.

O God, give us love in our time.

And now we pray the prayer that Jesus taught us;

**Our Father...**

## **Prayer 2**

Holy and loving God, we thank and praise you for your kindness and care for us and for your world. We have witnessed the birth of our Saviour, we have been given the opportunity, not just to see and hear, but now to share what we have seen and heard.

God of faithfulness, nurture our trust, nourish our hope, and open our minds and hearts so that our actions and motives will be formed by love.

God of newness, we pray especially for those who are seeking new life; who want things to be different. Lord, work in their lives; work in all of our lives. We may not all

be ready to make a change, but we pray that you nudge us in the right direction, the direction of a fresh start and a new beginning.

Lord, touch us all with the wonderful good news of the birth of our Saviour. Change us all as a consequence of His coming. Make us all instruments of your peace, love and joy, even as we tell the good news of Jesus' birth.

And now we pray the prayer that Jesus taught us;

**Our Father...**

**HYMN #153**

**Joy to the world**

**BENEDICTION**